

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A base for a food container, comprising:
a side wall,
5 a bottom wall, and
a plurality of first rib units formed in said side wall, each said first rib unit includes a first female rib and a first male rib.
2. The base claimed in claim 1 wherein said first male rib is formed in said
10 first female rib.
3. The base claimed in claim 1 wherein said first female rib is at an angle of between from about 5° to about 44° from a vertical line that is perpendicular to said bottom wall.
15
4. The base claimed in claim 1 wherein said first male rib is at an angle of between from about 6° to about 45° from a vertical line that is perpendicular to said bottom wall.
- 20 5. The base claimed in claim 1 wherein said first female rib is at a first angle to a vertical axis perpendicular to said bottom wall and said first male rib is at a second angle to said vertical axis, said first angle and said second angle are not equal.
6. The base claimed in claim 1 wherein said first female rib is at a first
25 depth in said side wall and said first male rib is at a second depth in said side wall, said first depth is different than said second depth.
7. The base claimed in claim 1 wherein said first female rib extends into said bottom wall a first distance, and said first male rib extends into said bottom wall a
30 second distance, said first female rib extends farther into said bottom wall than said first male rib wherein said first distance is greater than said second distance.

8. The base claimed in claim 1 wherein said first female rib and said first male rib each extends into said bottom wall, the height of said first male rib in said bottom wall is greater than the height of said first female rib in said bottom wall.

5 9. The base claimed in claim 1 wherein said first female rib is of a first height in said side wall and said first male rib is of a second height in said side wall, said first height exceeds said second height.

10 10. The base claimed in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of second rib units in said side wall positioned between adjacent first rib units, each said second rib unit includes a second male rib formed in said side wall.

11. The base claimed in claim 10 wherein said side wall is at from about 5° to about 44° to a vertical axis perpendicular to said bottom wall and said second male rib extends from about 6° to about 45° to said vertical axis.

12. The base claimed in claim 10 further comprising a plurality of third rib units formed in said side wall, each said third rib unit positioned adjacent one of said second rib units, each said third rib unit includes a second female rib and a third male rib formed in said second female rib.

13. The base claimed in claim 12 wherein said second female rib is at an angle of between about 5° to about 44° from a vertical axis perpendicular to said bottom wall and said third male rib is at an angle of between about 6° to about 45° from said vertical axis.

14. The base claimed in claim 13 wherein the angle of said second female rib is not equal to said angle of said third male rib.

15. The base claimed in claim 12 wherein said second female rib is at a third depth in said side wall and said third male rib is at a fourth depth in said side wall, said third depth is different than said fourth depth.

16. The base claimed in claim 12 wherein said second female rib extends into said bottom wall, and said third male rib extends into said bottom wall, said second female rib extends into said bottom wall farther than said third male rib.
- 5 17. The base claimed in claim 16 wherein the height of said third male rib in said bottom wall is greater than the height of said second female rib in said bottom wall.
- 10 18. The base claimed in claim 12 wherein said second female rib extends a first vertical distance up said side wall and said third male rib extends a second vertical distance up said side wall, said first vertical distance exceeds said second vertical distance.
- 15 19. The base claimed in claim 1 comprising a plurality of first ribs formed in said bottom wall and extending to a first elevation, a plurality of depressions formed in said bottom wall and extending below said bottom wall, and a plurality of second ribs formed in said bottom wall and extending to a second elevation.
- 20 20. The base claimed in claim 19 wherein said second elevation is different than said first elevation.
21. The base claimed in claim 19 wherein said base includes a longitudinal axis and said first ribs extend parallel to said longitudinal axis.
- 25 22. The base claimed in claim 19 wherein said base includes a longitudinal axis and at least some of said second ribs are perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.
23. The base claimed in claim 19 wherein said base includes a longitudinal axis and at least some of said second ribs are at an angle other than perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.
- 30 24. A plastic container bottom, comprising:
a bottom wall;

a plurality of depressions in said bottom wall, said depressions extending below said bottom wall;

a plurality of first ribs formed in said bottom wall and extending to a first elevation; and

5 a plurality of second ribs formed in said bottom wall and extending to a second elevation.

25. The plastic container bottom claimed in claim 24 wherein said bottom wall includes a longitudinal axis, and at least one of said plurality of first ribs extends
10 parallel to said longitudinal axis.

26. The plastic container bottom claimed in claim 24 wherein said bottom wall includes a transverse axis; said depressions, said plurality of first ribs and said plurality of second ribs alternate along said transverse axis.

15 27. The plastic container bottom claimed in claim 24 wherein said bottom wall includes a longitudinal axis; said plurality of said first ribs extend parallel to said longitudinal axis, and at least one of said plurality of said second ribs extends perpendicularly to said plurality of said first ribs and said longitudinal axis.

20 28. The plastic container bottom claimed in claim 24 wherein said bottom wall includes a longitudinal axis, at least one of said plurality of second ribs being at an angle greater than about 0° and less than about 90° to said longitudinal axis, and at least one of said plurality of said second ribs being at an angle greater than about 90°
25 and less than about 180° to said longitudinal axis.

29. A plastic container, comprising:
a bottom wall;
a side wall;
30 a plurality of first rib units formed in said side wall, each said first rib unit includes a first female rib and a first male rib;
a plurality of first ribs formed in said bottom wall and extending to a first elevation above said bottom wall, a plurality of depressions formed in said bottom wall

and extending below said bottom wall, and a plurality of second ribs formed in said bottom wall and extending to a second elevation above said bottom wall.

30. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said first male rib is formed in
5 said first female rib.

31. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said first female rib is at an angle of between from about 5° to about 44° from a vertical line that is perpendicular to said bottom wall.

10

32. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said first male rib is at an angle of between from about 6° to about 45° from a vertical line that is perpendicular to said bottom wall.

15

33. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said first female rib is at a first angle to a vertical axis perpendicular to said bottom wall and said first male rib is at a second angle to said vertical axis, said first angle and said second angle are not equal.

20

34. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said first female rib is at a first depth in said side wall and said first male rib is at a second depth in said side wall, said first depth is different than said second depth.

25

35. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said first female rib extends into said bottom wall a first distance, and said first male rib extends into said bottom wall a second distance, said first female rib extends farther into said bottom wall than said first male rib wherein said first distance is greater than said second distance.

30

36. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said first female rib and said first male rib each extends into said bottom wall, the height of said first male rib in said bottom wall is greater than the height of said first female rib in said bottom wall.

37. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said first female rib is of a first height in said side wall and said first male rib is of a second height in said side wall, said first height exceeds said second height.

5 38. The base claimed in claim 29 further comprising a plurality of second rib units in said side wall positioned between adjacent first rib units, each said second rib unit includes a second male rib formed in said side wall.

39. The base claimed in claim 38 wherein said side wall is at from about 5°
10 to about 44° to a vertical axis perpendicular to said bottom wall and said second male rib extends from about 6° to about 45° to said vertical axis.

40. The base claimed in claim 38 further comprising a plurality of third rib units formed in said side wall, each said third rib unit positioned adjacent one of said
15 second rib units, each said third rib unit includes a second female rib and a third male rib formed in said second female rib.

41. The base claimed in claim 40 wherein said second female rib is at an angle of between about 5° to about 44° from a vertical axis perpendicular to said
20 bottom wall and said third male rib is at an angle of between about 6° to about 45° from said vertical axis.

42. The base claimed in claim 41 wherein the angle of said second female rib is not equal to said angle of said third male rib.

25

43. The base claimed in claim 40 wherein said second female rib is at a third depth in said side wall and said third male rib is at a fourth depth in said side wall, said third depth is different than said fourth depth.

30 44. The base claimed in claim 40 wherein said second female rib extends into said bottom wall, and said third male rib extends into said bottom wall, said second female rib extends into said bottom wall farther than said third male rib.

45. The base claimed in claim 44 wherein the height of said third male rib in said bottom wall is greater than the height of said second female rib in said bottom wall.

5 46. The base claimed in claim 40 wherein said second female rib extends a first vertical distance up said side wall and said third male rib extends a second vertical distance up said side wall, said first vertical distance exceeds said second vertical distance.

10 47. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said second elevation is greater than said first elevation.

48. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said bottom wall includes a longitudinal axis and said first ribs in said bottom wall extend parallel to said
15 longitudinal axis.

49. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said bottom wall includes a longitudinal axis and at least some of said second ribs in said bottom wall are perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

20 50. The base claimed in claim 29 wherein said bottom wall includes a longitudinal axis and at least some of said second ribs in said bottom wall are at an angle other than perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.